Halperin Says Phone Was Tapped Illegally

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Morton Halperin, a former National Security Council aide, said yesterday his telephone was tapped three days before it was legally authorized.

Halperin also said Alexander M. Haig Jr., a former aide to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, lied to the FBI when he said Halperin was fired because of the conversations overheard when the phone was tapped.

Halperin is seeking damages from Kissinger, the FBI and other administration officials on grounds his privacy and civil rights were violated when his phone was tapped in an attempt to find out if he was the source of news leaks.

He said his phone was tapped May 9, 1969, the day FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was asked to make the tap. This was three days before a written authorization was issued by then-Attorney General John N. Mitchell or any other Justice Department officer, Halperin said.

"Such installation, without any written authorization of the Attorney General, was in violation of the governing rules and regulations of the Justice Department and the FBI," Halperin said in briefs yesterday.

Halperin said Haig's statements that Halperin was fired as a result of overheard conversations were made "in bad faith" and "were false and were known to defendant Haig to be false when he made them."